

**The Arc Michigan Education Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 2, 2022**

Meeting came to order at 3:30pm via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes from the last meeting on 11/3/2021 were previously sent out to committee members.

**Present: Maggie Kolk, Michelle Driscoll, Kenya Harper, Debbie Whitford, Sue Lind**

***Summary of Testimony on School Safety and Culture (Appropriations Subcommittee on School Aid and Department of Education) – January 27, 2022***

No legislation, just testimony.

- **Navigate 360, threat assessment expert CEO JP Guilbault**
  - Safety is complex, multifaceted issue for schools and educators. Ability to identify and manage threats has never been so challenging.
  - Holistic approach to school safety, prevention and recovery.
  - Focus on mental health, school climate and safety. Develop strong school safety programs.
  - Need to distinguish between normal child behavior and behavior that is more of a risk. School team need to assess and collaborate to address the issue.
  - To address youth mental health, the next step is for every school to be required and able to form and train a multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Team with a multifaceted approach. The main objective of the Threat Assessment Team is not to punish; it is to identify the likelihood of the action being carried out turning into violence and the root cause behind the action, as well as to get the child help and off the pathway to violence and self-harm.
- **Niles High School Principal, Jerry Holtgren**
  - 200% increase in MH referrals over last 3 years
  - Some solutions to school safety and current school climate include prevention vs. reactive approach, best solutions are low cost/free, adopting “packages/programs are not always the answer. Staff can often create better solutions.
  - At Niles, they put more energy into creating culture about learners-creating a sense of belonging- students matter, students can make a difference, ensuring students have a voice.
  - Project-based learning leads to student empowerment and self-advocacy. This development is intentional.
- **Midland Public Schools Superintendent, Michael Sharrow**
  - Created first Strict Discipline Academy
  - Received funding and developed mental health training for staff
  - Have School Resource Officers in elementary schools (proactive approach vs. reactive)
- **Grand Rapids Public Schools Assistant Superintendent, Larry Johnson**
  - Questions whether the graduation rate will drop in 3 years due to Covid-19 pandemic

- Believes in “intervention and prevention over apprehension and detention.”  
Doesn’t believe in suspensions for students
- Preparing staff to mitigate factors with students-comprehensive training
- Components of safe schools (like an umbrella) are school climate-order, respect, trust, cultural diversity; data driven decisions around school safety; fair, consistent discipline action.

**SEAC Report -Kenya Harper (Notes from Kenya Harper and Andrea Beachnau)-**

**Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) – Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht**

- Dr. K’s son Cooper, a junior in high school, who has ASD is living the life of OCTE in the Early Childhood Program at Clinton County RESA – read his paper on reflecting on first semester of OCTE and what he learned

**Dr. Brian Pyles- Director of OCTE –**

- The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE- OCTE), works closely with regional career and technical education (CTE) administrators to provide technical assistance and support for the implementation and improvement of currently operating, and the development of new, career and technical education programs.
- CTE programs provide students hands-on training that can be applied to real-world, in-demand education, training and career pathways. Parents can ask the school who is the work base learning coordinator to get the student started.
- Dr. Pyles recommends parents reach out to work-based learning coordinator in the local school district for supports

**Additional Information about**

- **Supporting Secondary Transition Planning** – Jeanne Anderson Tippet
- **Supporting Students with Disabilities in the Career and Technical Education (CTE)** – Valerie Morton
- **Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity – Collaboration at work between CTE, BSBP, and MRS** – Shannon McVoy and Jennifer Hirst

**(More information on this topic is available, if requested)**

**Office of Special Education Update- Teri Rink and Jessica Brady**

**State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report**

Each state must submit its APR to the U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) by February 1 each year and is required to be posted on each state’s website.

- The report must include the state’s progress or slippage in meeting the “measurable and rigorous targets” from the SPP targets.
- By **June 1, 2022**, the **ISD and member district level data will be available at: MI School Data portal** (<https://mischooldata.org/special-education-summary/>)

**January 15, 2022: Catamaran Release**

Catamaran have added new alerts to help schools stay in compliance by sending schools letters of findings, Data Alerts, and Reports. These alerts focuses on-

- B-11 Letter of Findings (Child Find, evaluation and eligibility)

- B-12 Letter of Findings (Early Childhood Transition and doing IEP annual meetings on time)
- B-12 Data Alert
- B-Timely IEP Data Alert
- B-Valid & Reliable Data Alert
- B-Complaint Final Decisions

**Districts are asked to acknowledge these reports by February 15!**

- Member District Monitoring Reports
- Member District Data Reports (B-11, B-12, B-Timely IEP, and B-Valid & Reliable)
- Student Data Report of Member District Data (B-11, B-12, B-Timely IEP, and B-Valid & Reliable)

**Tuition reimbursement grant update**

District can apply for a teacher to be reimbursed for any class they attend. A teacher cannot apply for the grant. The grant will pay up to \$800 per credit. The grand funds are available until grand fund runs out.

**OSE Memos: January 6, 2022:**

- Memo regarding the use and reporting of board-certified behavior analysts and board-certified assistant behavior analysts. **ISD can get reimbursed for behavior analysts they employ.**
- Memo to address valid and reliable data issues specific to reporting the primary education setting for students with disabilities attending a school at a residential facility. Includes a decision tree to ensure accurate reporting.

**Use of Substitutes in Special Education Programs**

**Public Act 149: Substitute Requirements-**

**Through June 30, 2022, a district may employ an individual without a certificate or permit who does not meet the requirements under subsection (5) as a substitute teacher if both of the following are met:**

- The individual has a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate.
- The individual is employed by or works at the school district or intermediate school district.
- Public Act 149

**In most cases, individuals working under a Full-Year Basic Substitute Permit, or a Daily Substitute Permit are not endorsed special education teachers in Michigan.**

- A **certified teacher** with a **special education endorsement must attend the IEP Team meeting** as the special education teacher. Should support the development of the IEP and facilitate the IEP Team meeting.
- The **substitute teacher should not attend the IEP Team meeting** certified teacher
- Special Education Placement (michigan.gov)

### **Procedural**

Procedural Safeguards are available in 40 different languages. Two new languages in response to Afghan refugees:

- Pashto
- Dari
- MDE Notice and Consent webpage

### **Due process: Four new resources available on the MDE OSE Spotlight page:**

- Due Process: When Parent Files Flow Chart
- Due Process: When District Files Flow Chart
- Child Find Guidance
- Transition for Students with Disabilities

### **State Complaints Filed: 3 Year Trend**

July 1- Dec 31, 2019: 137 state complaints

July 1- Dec 31, 2020: 71 state complaints

July 1- Dec 31, 2021: There were 115 state complaints filed

- 95 were parents
- 20 were advocates
- 33 elementary and 27 middle school, 40 high schools and 15 others

### **The complaints were on**

- IEP Development, IEP Implementation, re-evaluations, parent participation, personnel, Child Find, records, and Homebound/Hospitalized

### **December 16, 2021-January 15, 2022**

Information Desk Data. Total Contacts: 130

- Who Contacted Us?
- Parents/Guardians: 64
- School Personnel: 40
- Other: 11
- Advocate/Attorney: 6
- Medical Facility: 4
- Other Family Member: 3
- Government: 1
- Childcare Provider: 1

### **Top 5 Topics: call were about**

- Child Find (3-5): 28
- IEP Implementation: 15
- IEP Development: 13
- Complaint Information: 9
- Special Ed Approval: 6

## **Due Process Hearings: Data Report**

**July 1, 2021- January 15th, 2021. Due Process Complaints filed: 38**

- Standard: 31
- Expedited: 7
- Dismissed (not adjudicated): 18
- Withdrawn: 7
- Final Decisions and Order: 3
- Pending: 10

**Due Process Complaints Carried Over: 11**

- Standard: 10
- Expedited: 1
- Dismissed (not adjudicated): 7
- Withdrawn: 2
- Final Decisions and Order: 1
- Pending: 1

### **Discussion**

- Members at the meeting discussed the current school climate and discipline situations- suspensions/expulsions
- Kris Keranen, Director of Advocacy with Disability Rights Michigan, shared the report done by National Disability Rights Network- ***Out from the Shadows- Informal Removal of Children with Disabilities from Public Schools (January 2022)***  
[Out from the Shadows: Informal Removal of Children with Disabilities from Public Schools - NDRN](#)

### **Other Updates**

- Transition to Adulthood Position Paper has been sent to the Arc Michigan Board of Directors to review and approve.
- Maggie will check with Sherri about any other position statements that need to be updated.

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 2 from 3:30-5.**

This is the standing link for this meeting-

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83174727390?pwd=V1k5RlhyNHM2WkxRNGNwdkxUUST1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 831 7472 7390

Passcode: 806939

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Driscoll